

Talking Points—Spring Flood Outlook

National Weather Service Des Moines, Iowa

March 3, 2016

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, the National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Iowa are scheduled to release an updated spring flood outlook. The outlook for NWS Des Moines is linked from the News section at the top of our Webpage (<http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>). The other NWS offices serving Iowa will likely do something similar on their Webpages.

The outlook issued by NWS Des Moines is only for the NWS Des Moines service area. Please refer to the outlooks from the other NWS offices serving Iowa for those areas.

This outlook is the last scheduled spring flood outlook for the season. Beginning in early April the NWS will resume issuing monthly probabilistic outlooks. These outlooks cover each month. You may also refer to the NWS Des Moines Webpage for more information.

Here are some over-arching key points:

- The risk of minor river flooding is near to above normal at most locations—except for portions of the upper Des Moines River basin where the risk of minor river flooding is above to much above normal. The risk of moderate and major river flooding is generally near normal at all locations.
- The risk of river flooding—especially minor flooding—will be more sensitive than normal to precipitation trends. Moderate to heavy precipitation—especially rainfall—will more easily lead to river flooding than normal. The main reasons for the elevated sensitivity of flooding are elevated soil moisture and streamflow values for this time of year.
- Maps and graphics concerning the risk of flooding for the NWS Des Moines service area are available on the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services Webpage, or by [clicking here](#). On that page click on the tab above the map labeled Experimental Long-Range Flood Risk, or [click here](#).

Here are the Webpages for the NWS offices that serve Iowa:

- NWS Des Moines, IA: <http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>
- NWS La Crosse, WI: <http://www.weather.gov/lacrosse>
- NWS Omaha, NE: <http://www.weather.gov/omaha>
- NWS Quad Cities, IA/IL: <http://www.weather.gov/quadcities>
- NWS Sioux Falls, SD: <http://www.weather.gov/siouxfalls>

Iowa NWS Offices – Hydrologic Contacts

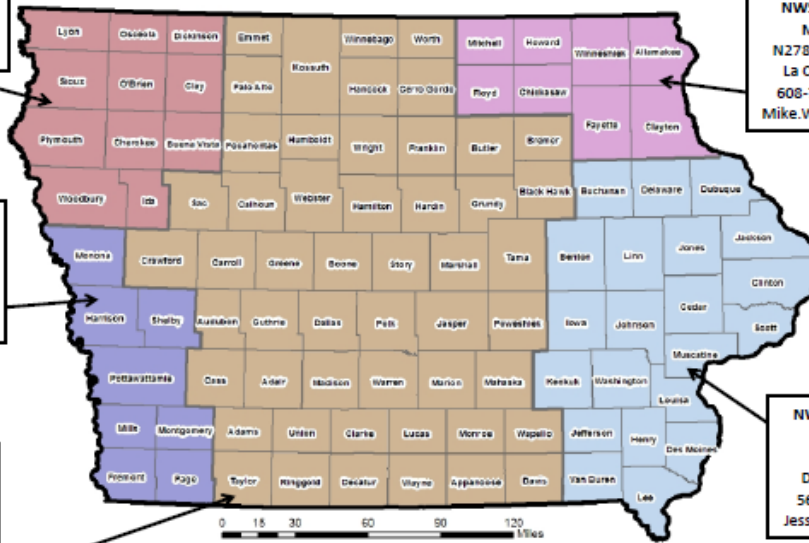
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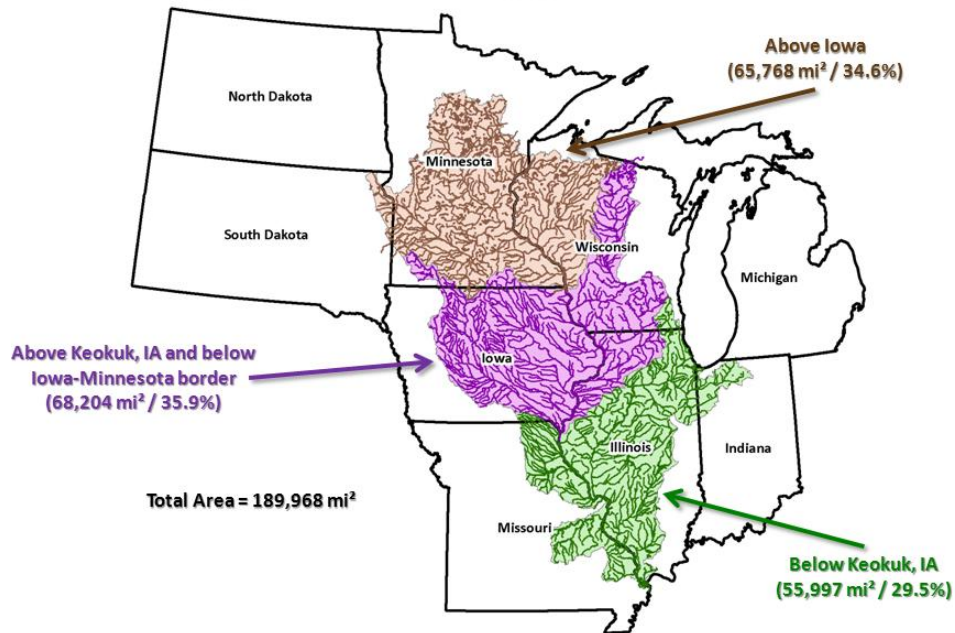
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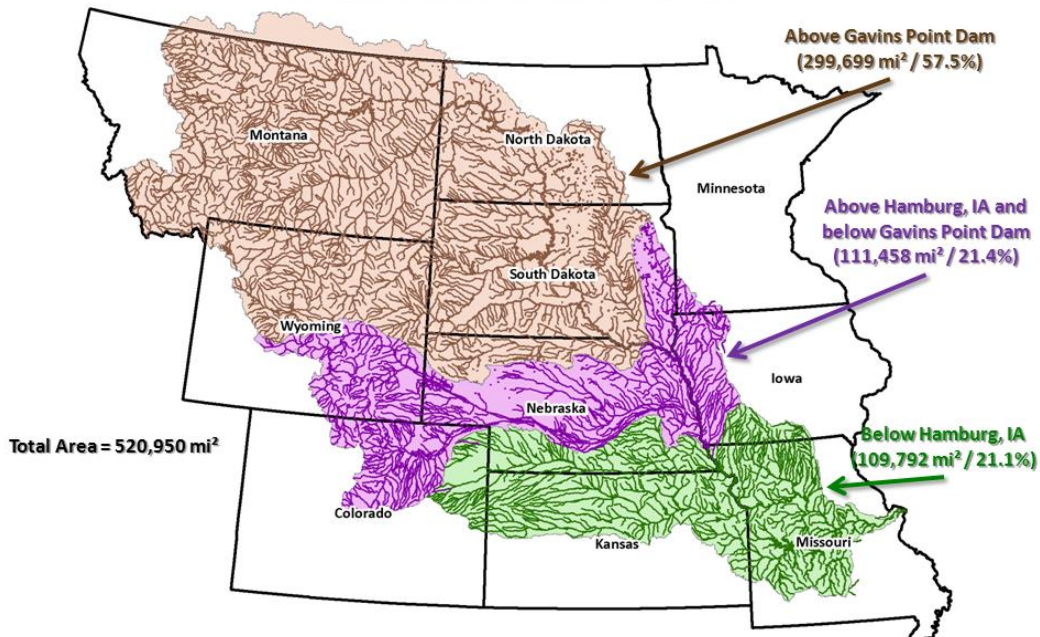
Des Moines, IA
 Sioux Falls, SD

Upper Mississippi River Basin



National Weather Service
Des Moines, IA

Missouri River Basin



National Weather Service
Des Moines, IA